



Meeting on our MSA as a College Mecca
April 18 – 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St. James Episcopal Church - 3750 E. Douglas - Wichita

From: Suzie Ahlstrand

Visioneering Wichita completed Phase I in December, 2004 which brought together over 9,000 area residents along with government and community leaders to understand and address the significant challenges facing our (MSA) Metropolitan Statistical Area of Sedgwick, Harvey, Butler and Sumner counties. The result of this unprecedented effort was the publication of a 20-year strategic plan and vision for our metro area (see www.visioneeringwichita.com for plan).

Now is the time to start on that plan. *Visioneering Wichita* is forming alliances around six priority areas: Entrepreneurism & Small Business; MSA as a College Mecca; Mentoring in our K-12 Systems; Health Care; Racial Diversity, Opportunity & Harmony; and a South Central Kansas Unified Legislative Agenda.

Your organization has been identified as a needed valuable asset to begin an exploratory discussion regarding the formation of a strategic alliance on this Metropolitan Statistical Area becoming a college mecca. You are invited to attend this initial meeting which will specifically discuss the following:

College Mecca

Create an awareness of the Wichita MSA as a college mecca and learning community. Increase the number of students in all area colleges and universities. Provide graduate level education with a world-class faculty and research facilities. Provide curriculum, programs and research that supports the Wichita MSA employers' high paying targeted job sectors. Increase research grants. Identify future technologies that can be developed in the Wichita MSA and provide the research and incubation for commercialization in the Wichita MSA.

Please indicate your attendance by contacting Diane Longfellow at 268-1141 or via email at diane@wacc.org by April 12th. I hope your schedule permits your attendance at this critical first meeting. If you are unable to attend you may send a representative.